# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6379
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
BUFFER STOCK
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin;Devi Smt. Rama;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao;Ninama Shri Manshankar;Trivedi Shri Dinesh

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) the buffer norms and actual stock of foodgrains and sugar held by the Government and private agencies in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether any disparities have been noticed in the buffer stocks in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the stock of the said commodities is adequate to meet the domestic demand, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps proposed in this regard;

(d) whether any unused stocks are lying with the Government due to low offtake, if so, the details thereof along with the percentage increase in offtake during the last three years; and

(e) the manner in which the surplus stocks are proposed to be utilised?

## Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): The buffer norms (now termed as Foodgrains Stocking norms) and the actual stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1st April of last three years is as under:-

(in lakh tons)

| Year | Actual Stock | Buffer Norms |
|---|---|---|
| 1st April 2013 | 596.75 | 212.00 |
| 1st April 2014 | 381.12 | 212.00 |
| 1st April 2015 | 343.15 | 210.40 |

Note: Buffer norms includes Strategic reserve of 30 lakh tons of wheat and 20 lakh tons of rice

There are no fixed norms for the buffer stock of sugar. The stock of sugar during last 3 sugar seasons were as follows:

| Sugar Season | Quantity (in MT) |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 66.96 |
| 2012-13 | 91.09 |
| 2013-14 | 72.19 |

(b): No Madam.

(c): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.4.2015 was 343.15 lakh tons visvis buffer norms of 210.40 lakh tons which is adequate to meet

the requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). The stock of sugar of the last season and estimated sugar production during current 2014-15 sugar season would be adequate to meet the domestic demand for sugar in the country.

(d) & (e): The unlifted quantity of foodgrains remains part of the Central Pool stocks. The allocation, offtake and percentage offtake of foodgrains under TPDS (Normal and Additional) during the last three years is as under:-

(in lakh tons)

| Year | Allocation | Offtake | % Offtake |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012-13 | 575.89 | 504.03 | 87.5 |
| 2013-14 | 551.03 | 460.67 | 83.6 |
| 2014-15 | 549.99 | 467.34 | 84.9 |

The surplus stock of foodgrains may be utilized for additional TPDS requirement by States/ Union Territories (UTs), for festivals, natural calamities etc. and stock in excess of Foodgrain stocking norms for the Central Pool may be offloaded through open sale in the domestic market or through exports.